- An order has been issued imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use. The order is in respect of stocks of domestically produced sugar.

Futures trade in sugar has been suspended in domestic exchanges *w.e.f.* 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Sale of paddy at lesser rate

3262. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Orissa are selling paddy at much lesser rates as State Government agencies are not coming forward to purchase it from farmers; and

(b) if so, whether that is the main reason for farmers suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Under the existing policy for foodgrains procurement, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Agencies of State Governments purchase all the foodgrains, conforming to the prescribed specifications, offered for sale by farmers at procurement centers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

As reported by FCI, there have been no reports of distress sale of paddy by farmers in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

Insurance scheme for fishermen

3263. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an insurance scheme for fishermen and fishworkers;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) whether it requires that the person concerned should be missing for seven years for the dependent to get the claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Under the "Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen" which is a component of the Centrally Sponsored 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, fishermen are insured for Rs. 1,00,000/- against death or permanent total disability and Rs,. 50,000/- for partial permanent disability. The benefit of this scheme accrues to the fishermen free of cost as the entire amount of annual premium *i.e.* Rs. 29/- per fishermen per year is subsidized by the Central and the State Governments on 50-50 basis. In case of North-Eastern States, 75% premium amount is subsidized by the Centre and 100% in case of Union Territories. All the fishermen registered/ licensed with the State/Union Territory Governments between the age group of 18-70 years are eligible for insurance

coverage. A claim has to be filed within 9 months of accident with the required documents *i.e.* i) copy of the FIR, ii) Post-mortem Report, iii) Medical Certificate, iv) Death Certificate and v) Legal heir Certificate.

(c) As per general policy of settlement of claims for missing persons, a claim is settled after seven years but under the above said Insurance Scheme, as a special case, claim can be settled after a period of two years.

Aims and objectives of NFSM

3264. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Food Security Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that only in selected districts in the country NFSM is being implemented;

(c) if so, the details of districts identified for NFSM and the components like rice, wheat, pulses, etc., that are being supplied through NFSM in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the quantity of components so far supplied in identified districts of Andlira Pradesh since the beginning of the Mission, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched from Rabi 2007-08 with three major components *viz*. NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses with the aim of reaping additional production of 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the XI Plan (2011-12). The objective of the Mission is to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities; and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NFSM is being implemented in 312 identified districts of the country in 17 States including Andhra Pradesh covering all the three components *i.e.* NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses.

Under *NFSM-Rice,* 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh namely, Adilabad, Guntur, Khammam, Krishna, Mahaboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Srikakulam, Vishakhapatanam and Vizianagram are covered with interventions like demonstrations on improved package of practices, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) & hybrid rice technology; promotion of hybrid rice seeds through their production & distribution; distribution of HYVs seeds; seed minikits; micro-nutrients; liming; conoweeders; zero till seed drills; multi-crop planters; seed drills; rotavators; pump sets; power weeders; knap sack sprayers; plant protection chemicals & bio-pesticides; farmers field schools (FFS); local initiatives; award for best performing districts; mass media campaign; and project management team.